DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 306 870 HE 022 594

TITLE Minorities and Justice Careers.
INSTITUTION Alaska Univ., Anchorage.; American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE 88
NOTE 9p.; This report is one of a group gathered by the AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project, funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education. For related documents, see HE 022 565-617, HE 022 619-643 and HE 022 645-659.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Access to Education; Alaska Natives; American Indians; Blacks; *Career Awareness; *Equal Education; Equal Opportunities (Jobs); Higher Education; Hispanic Americans; Justice; *Law Related Education; *Minority Groups; Models; Nondiscriminatory Education; Program Descriptions; Sex Discrimination; State Universities; *Summer Programs
IDENTIFIERS *AASCU ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project; *University of Alaska Anchorage

ABSTRACT

The Minorities and Justice Careers Program at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, is an intensive summer program for Alaska Natives and members of other minority groups interested in pursuing careers in the justice system. This program was conceived in response to a perception that minority groups are underrepresented in professional positions within the Alaska justice system. Through a combination of academic classes, field observations, guest lectures, and internships, the students receive both an academic and practical introduction to the justice system, encouraging them to consider justice system careers. Since the program's beginning in 1983, more than 85 students have participated, and many of them are now considering their undergraduate educations in the justice field. Others have assumed professional positions in justice-related agencies. Alaska Native students have represented all of the traditional groups indigenous to Alaska, and other minority groups represented are Hispanic and Black Americans and displaced homemakers. The program has received extensive favorable publicity throughout the state and is recognized by the Consortium for Graduate Opportunities for American Indians at Northern Alaska University. (SM)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED306870

Minorities and Justice Careers

University of Alaska Anchorage

Contact: Antonia Moras

Part A

HE022594

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Antonia Moras

University of Alaska Anchorage

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

J1-M5

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory is a two-year project seeking to establish and test a model system for collecting and disseminating information on model programs at AASCU-member institutions--375 of the public four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

The four objectives of the project are:

- To increase the information on model programs available to all institutions through the ERIC system
- To encourage the use of the ERIC system by AASCU institutions
- To improve AASCU's ability to know about, and share information on, activities at member institutions, and
- To test a model for collaboration with ERIC that other national organizations might adopt.

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project is funded with a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education at The George Washington University.

Abstract

The Minorities and Justice Careers program at the University of Alaska Anchorage is an intensive summer program for Alaska Natives and members of other minority groups interested in pursuing careers in the justice system.

Through a combination of academic classes, field observations, guest lectures and internships, the students receive both an academic and practical introduction to the justice system.

J1-M6

Introduction

The Minorities and Justice Careers program at the University of Alaska Anchorage is an intensive summer program for Alaska Natives and members of other minority groups interested in pursuing careers in the justice system. The following pages discuss the history, intent and scope of the program.

Background

The Minorities and Justice Careers program was conceived in response to a perception that minority groups, particularly Alaska Natives, are underrepresented in professional positions within the Alaska justice system. The class was designed to provide participants with both an academic and practical introduction to the justice system, thereby encouraging students to consider justice system careers.

The program has been offered once each year since 1983. Over eighty-five students, the majority of them Alaska Natives or members of other minority groups, have now participated. Alaska Native students have represented all of the traditional groups indigenous to Alaska: Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan, Tlingit and Haida. Other minority groups represented have been Black Americans, Hispanic Americans and displaced homemakers.

Many of the participants in the program are now continuing their undergraduate educations in the the justice field. Others have assumed professional positions in justice-related agencies, including the Alaska Judicial Council, the Alaska Department of Corrections and the Office of the Public Defender. A number of former students are presently working with Alaska Native organizations, and one has held the position of mayor in his home village.

J1-M7.1

The program has received extensive favorable publicity thoughout the state and is recognized by the Consortium for Graduate Opportunities for American Indians at Northern Arizona University. It received the University of Alaska Anchorage Vice-Chancellor's Award for Innovations in Teaching and has twice been mentioned in "More Good Ideas," the annual collection of innovative program ideas published by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

J1-M8

Description

The Minorities and Justice Careers program introduces students to the variety of career possiblilities in law, corrections, the court system, and police work. The program is designed particularly for Alaska Natives and other minorities who have completed some college-level study, but it is open to all seeking a practically-oriented perspective on the justice field.

During the first part of the month-long program, students receive an introduction to justice study, with a special emphasis on constitutional law. These classes incorporate an emphasis on developing the verbal and analytic skills necessary for entrance to careers in the justice system.

Students receive opportunities to further their understanding of the daily functioning of the justice system through field observations at selected court, police, and correctional agencies.

During the second part of the program, students serve as interns in justice-related offices. Each student accompanies and helps a member of the court, corrections, police or legal systems in the performance of his or her daily routine. These internships are designed to foster in the students a realistic appreciation of the demands of actual jobs in the justice system.

Throughout the program, students attend a series of guest lectures given by prominent members of justice professions.

J1-M8.1

Regular examinations and writing assignments are administered. The course provides three credits.

Because of the intensive nature of the class, it is usually limited to fifteen students. It is team-taught by members of the Justice faculty.

The program generally provides full support for most participants, including room, board, tuition, books and transportation. Funding is achieved through a combination of university and grant monies.

Because of funding problems it has been possible to offer the program only once a year. Consideration is now being given to expanding the program.